

2027 REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Michael Hricak, FAIA

Candidate for Regional Director

REGION I

AIA Los Angeles

Term: 2027

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Since 1980 Michael has had a practice distinguished by the diversity and quality of its work. He lectured in Professional Practice at USC since 1998, exploring the effect on design of issues related to: environmental concerns; business; construction law; and ethics. A graduate of USC and Harvard, he served on both institutions' guidance boards. He served on the AIA National Board of Directors, was a regional director for AIACA, served as vice-president and president of both AIA/CA, and AIA/LA and was a NAAB Director 2023-2025. He was elevated to the College of Fellows in 1997 for his design work.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

In a recent edition of ARCHITECT Newswire, curators of the of the 2027 Venice Biennale, commenting on architecture's growing obsession with technology, spectacle, and theory suggest that "Architecture Has Forgotten How to Build." To address this situation, they promise a Biennale focused on Making Rather than Talking. This fragmentation between the two aspects of Architecture, the Practice and the Discipline, took place over decades with papers delivered by the likes of MIT's Stanford Anderson and in the pages of ANY's Oppositions . The jargon, oblique references, and arcane precedents, the argot of theory, has always made for lively crits but does little to prepare (and in fact works counter to learning) to build, having been raised on concepts free of the earthly bonds of building. These intellectual parlor games would have been fine had they included the stuff of stuff. Into the void comes the fetishism of technology. While I mourn the demise of architecture as "the building art" I am especially saddened to realize not only have we forgotten how to build, but we forgot, or perhaps never really knew how, to teach how to build. As a profession, a discipline and a practice we can do better.